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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors of the Districts

for the year

1956

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your districts for the year 1956. While dealing mainly with the environmental health services, for which the Councils as Local Sanitary Authorities are responsible, a brief account of the related personal health services of the area provided by the County Council has as usual been included.

The health of the Districts throughout the year has been well maintained, the standardised Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates in each District comparing favourably with the national rates.

Notifications of infectious diseases were the lowest for several years, no major infectious disease occurring. Measles was widespread among pre-school and infant school children in Welwyn Garden City during the first half of the year. The decline in the incidence of scarlet fever and other streptococcal infections continues, the few cases notified being relatively benign and responding rapidly to treatment with antibiotics. Once again I am pleased to report complete freedom from diphtheria due to the continuing efforts of parents, doctors, nurses and teachers in maintaining the immunisation campaign. The proportion of infants immunised continues to rise, four out of every five being protected during their first year of life. Vaccination against the virus of poliomyelitis introduced during the Spring of 1956 marks a great advance in the prevention of this dread disease. Satisfactory reports on the safety and efficacy of the British vaccine following the initial trial period has resulted in a wide demand for increased supplies which, it is hoped, the Ministry will shortly be able to meet now that practical uncertainties in production and testing have been overcome. Expediency must, however, for the present give place to the overriding requirement that the vaccine shall be absolutely safe and as effective as possible against the strains of poliomyelitis virus occurring in this country.

The Public Health Inspectors have given close attention to standards of cleanliness in retail food shops, restaurants, and canteens throughout the year, the majority of which now comply with the improved standards required by the Clean Food Regulations, 1955. A recent survey of retail food shops in each District shows a general improvement in the care of food on display, the managements now realising that food shown in bad condition or exposed to flies and other contamination is definitely bad business. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of reports received from housewives of unsatisfactory conditions in food shops, a welcome sign of increasing public awareness and concern for improved standards.

In Welwyn Garden City and the town of Hatfield the new self service display sales shops provide a convenient and attractive service

for the busy housewife and will doubtless prove to be increasingly popular. When the layout of these shops is under consideration more attention needs to be paid to the provision of adequate bulk storage and food preparation rooms to serve the needs of the sales hall. Too often, in an endeavour to make the sales hall as large and attractive as possible, an unduly large proportion of the total floor area available is given over to it while the main food storage and preparation rooms, not seen by the public, are woefully inadequate with the staff condemned to work under cramped and unsatisfactory conditions. These premises do, however, establish improved standards of display in temperature controlled cabinets with meat, fish and vegetables conveniently packed in transparent wrappings and as such are a welcome advance in the technique of food sales. Large, well designed, mobile food shops linked with established butchers and grocers which have recently appeared serving both Urban and Rural communities in the area, also create improved standards of cleanliness in this type of trade.

The provisions of the Clean Air Act have been considered by the respective Councils and a study is now being made of the degree of atmospheric pollution, local industrial problems, the availability of smokeless fuels and the long term advantages of defining smokeless zones in each District.

Increasing attention is being given by hospital clinicians, general practitioners and research workers to the study of chronic illness. Progress has already been made in our knowledge of Rheumatism, Arthritis, Hypertension, and Arterial Disease, Bronchitis, Diabetes and Cancer. New drugs and forms of treatment are being evolved which give promise of reducing the vast amount of time lost to industry due to these diseases and the miseries of increasing physical handicap, pain and suffering. The Public Health worker has an important part to play in this attack upon the causes of chronic illness, seeking new avenues whereby these cripping ailments can be prevented, and presenting to the public the known facts relating faulty habits of living with specific health hazards. The dangers of excessive cigarette smoking, over eating in middle age and the inadequate physical activity of those engaged in sedentary occupations all call for personal disciplines which a well informed public will not be slow to adopt when the advantages to health are fairly presented.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerks and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1957.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspector for 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:
M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:
F. VALENTINE, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I. (left 31.5.56).
D. R. BURTON, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
(commenced 17.9.56).

Rodent Operative:
E. J. THOMAS.

Clerks:
Mrs. E. R. GEORGE.
A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

Section A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	4,231
Population (mid-year 1956, as estimated by the Registrar-General)	26,150
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1957	8,431
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1957	£399,867
Product of a penny rate 1956-57	£1,700

Founded by Ebenezer Howard and a small band of enthusiastic visionaries of the Garden City movement in 1920, Welwyn Garden City to-day displays the worthy ideals of those early pioneers in practical town planning. A new town of limited size in a rural setting, conveniently arranged for residence and industry, endowed with the beauty of open spaces, gardens and woodland vistas. The well laid-out homes, fine schools and facilities for the widest range of social activities and interests, provide a healthful and convenient way of life for all ages and sections of the community at work and leisure. The post-war building programme of the Council and Development Corporation continue the early tradition while incorporating recent progress in design and construction. There are large factories engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs, grinding wheels, radio sets, pharmaceutical products, heavy engineering, plastics and cigarettes, with many smaller firms engaged in a wide variety of manufacture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	96	87	183
Live Births: Legitimate	330	291	621
Illegitimate	7	5	12
Still Births: Legitimate	6	8	14
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of infants under one year:			
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Infant Mortality

Twelve infants under one year of age died during the year. On consideration of the circumstances in each case, five of these deaths may be classed as unavoidable due to congenital defects or prematurity.

Female	... 20 minutes	...	Neo natal asphyxia
Male	... 45 minutes	...	Cerebral haemorrhage
Female	... 10 hours	...	Prematurity
Female	... 1 day	...	Prematurity
Male	... 2 days	...	Pulmonary insufficiency
Male	... 2 days	...	Pneumonia
Male	... 3 days	...	Intracranial haemorrhage
Male	... 3 days	...	Prematurity
Male	... 1 month	...	Peritonitis
Female	... 3 months	...	Toxic myocarditis
Male	... 5 months	...	Asphyxia
Male	... 6 months	...	Asphyxia

Maternal Mortality

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary Midwifery in the town.

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1951 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1956. Each rate compares favourably with the corresponding rate for the country. The birth rate continues to rise steadily.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1952	16.9	0.88	14.9	6.5	1.36	8.8	15.3
1953	14.9	0.86	12.8	7.1	1.44	10.2	12.6
1954	18.3	0.86	15.7	5.4	1.44	7.8	9.8
1955	19.3	0.86	16.6	6.8	1.44	9.8	21.7
1956	24.2	0.80	19.4	7.0	1.76	12.3	18.96
England and Wales 1956	15.7		15.7	11.7		11.7	24

Deaths

No major adverse factors affected the mortality rate for the year, the slight rise in the general death rate being due to more deaths from heart and circulatory diseases.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	2	—	2
Cancer, malignant disease	16	16	32
Cerebral haemorrhage and Thrombosis ...	5	14	19
Heart Diseases	37	21	58
Other circulatory diseases	7	8	15
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	6	4	10
Road Traffic and Other Accidents ...	5	2	7
Diabetes	—	1	1
Suicide	1	5	6
Congenital Malformation	2	—	2
Other defined causes	13	12	25
	96	87	183

Analysis of the deaths from cancer are as follows:—

Respiratory tract	10
Alimentary tract and liver	14
Breast and uterus	4
Others	4

Section B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services in the town, embracing maternity and child welfare, school health service, health visiting, home nursing and the home help service. Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer for 1956 for detailed information on the development of these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Health Centre, Cole Green Lane

Ante and Post Natal ...	1st and 3rd Fridays, 3—4 p.m.
Infant Welfare	Monday, 2—4 p.m.; Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.; Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.
Minor Ailments	Daily, 9 a.m. (Doctor attends Monday, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.)
Dental and Orthodontic ...	Dental, Tuesday, a.m. and p.m.; Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.; Thursday, a.m. and p.m. (A special Orthodontic session held Monday, p.m., monthly.)
Ophthalmic	9.30 a.m.—12 noon, Wednesday.
Speech Therapy	Friday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m.—4.30 p.m. Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Child Development ...	Friday (by appointment).

Orthoptic	Monday and Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m., 2—4.30 p.m.	

Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road

Infant Welfare	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m. Thursday, 2—4 p.m. (Doctor's session).
Child Development ...	Wednesday (by appointment).

Midwifery Services

The Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree continued to maintain a very high standard of midwifery in the town, the hospital being recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives. Specialist advice and treatment are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases.

With the continued growth of the town the limited number of maternity beds available at the hospital hardly meets the increased demand for hospital confinement. A priority scheme for hospital delivery is therefore being introduced until the new joint hospital is built with its maternity unit of 60 beds. Three domiciliary district nurse/midwives are now employed by the County Council for home confinements and a fortnightly ante natal and post natal session is held at the Health Centre for the supervision of domiciliary midwifery cases. In addition to these facilities the Applecroft Nursing Home on the west side of the town is mainly engaged with maternity cases.

Nursing Services

Additional staff have been appointed during the year to meet the increasing demand upon all branches of the nursing service. At present five Health Visitors, two Home Nurses and three District Nurse/Midwives provide a comprehensive nursing service for the town. The Health Visitors undertake school health work in addition to their clinic duties and health visiting in the home. Valuable assistance is rendered at the clinics by teams of voluntary helpers who keep the registers, weigh and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties.

Medical Loan Depot

There is a medical loan depot for each side of the town, staffed by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, for the loan of many items of medical equipment needed for the nursing of sick or injured persons in their homes.

Health Centre, Gooseacre ...	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7—8 p.m.
Trevelyan House, Church Road	Monday to Friday, 8—9 p.m.

School Health Service

The Medical inspection of children in maintained schools in the prescribed age groups, namely 5, 11 and 14 years, and in addition the 8-year-old group, was completed during the year. Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer on the School Health Service, 1956, for detailed information.

Welfare Foods

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Vitamin A and D tablets can be obtained at all Child Welfare Centres and also at the following places:—

Gooseacre Health Centre	...	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. and 2—5 p.m.
W.V.S. Hut, The Campus	...	Tuesday and Thursday, 2.30—4 p.m.

Immunisation and Vaccination

It is now agreed policy to press for primary vaccination against smallpox of all children under the age of two years, and at ages above this when the child has been, or is likely to be exposed to smallpox. In a healthy infant primary vaccination is best done at the age of three or four months.

The need for diphtheria immunisation of all infants is as great as ever although the complete absence of the disease may tend to lull parents into a false sense of security. It is gratifying to record, however that parents still seem aware of their responsibilities in this matter and returns from medical practitioners and clinics show that the general level of acceptance is satisfactory.

Following improvement in proprietary vaccines for the prevention of whooping cough, immunisation against this disease is now available through family practitioners and clinics. While combined whooping cough and diphtheria protection has proved convenient, the Ministry of Health following close study of the merits of the various immunising preparations, recommend that the two sets of injections are best given concurrently.

Following the introduction of the Government scheme for anti-poliomyelitis vaccination, batches of children within the prescribed age groups were vaccinated in Hatfield and other districts during May and June, the number of children being limited by the small quantities of vaccine available. It is anticipated that a more ample supply of the vaccine will be available during 1957, when the remainder of the children already registered will receive their injections and additional groups accepted. No untoward reaction from this protective vaccination was reported among those vaccinated.

Home Help Service

The demands on this service have remained steady throughout the year, approximately 50 households receiving domestic help each week.

The local organiser is Mrs. E. R. Dawson, The Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2190). The Home Help Service is one of the ways in which the present heavy burden on hospital accommodation can be relieved, and there is a close link between the service and the domiciliary midwifery and nursing services.

Mental Health Service

The service is administered from the Central Health Department for the county as a whole. The Duly Authorised Officer under the Mental Treatment Acts for this area is Mr. C. A. English, 3 Wellfield Road, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 2239), who is also Divisional Welfare Officer. Several mentally defective children attend the Occupation Centres at St. Albans and Hertford.

Day Nursery, Woodhall Lane

A small unit taking 30 children for long or short term stay depending upon needs of the family. Application should be made directly to the Matron, Mrs. B. Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3692).

Priorities for admission:—

(1) Children of Widows or Widowers.
(2) Children of Unmarried Mothers.
(3) Children of deserted Wives or Husbands.
(4) Children of Parents in Prison.
(5) Children of Parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement, i.e. mental illiness, tuberculosis, etc.
(6) Temporary Cases, e.g. Mother's illness or confinment.
(7) Children recommended by Doctor or Health Visitor for temporary help, i.e. children from problem families, emotional difficulties and bad housing conditions.

Ambulance Service

Two ambulances and a sitting case car of the County Ambulance Brigade are attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station and, operating in conjunction with the Fire Brigade, maintain a 24-hour cover and deal with approximately 2,000 calls annually. Both vehicles are equipped with short-wave radio to conform with the County's Radio Control Scheme and can be mobilised by transmitter stations in St. Albans and Hertford.

Old People's Welfare

Increasing interest is being taken in the welfare of old people in the town. The Women's Voluntary Service assists the activities of the Old People's Club at the Community Centre each Monday afternoon in arranging home visits, special trips for the elderly and the mobile meals service. The Churches, Rotary Club and other organisations also give valuable assistance in this work. There is a close link between the voluntary workers and the Health Visitors and the Home Nurses in this sphere.

During the year a scheme has been launched to raise a capital fund by voluntary donations to provide an improved centre for the Old People's Club at Woodhall. This will enable the club to extend its activities and membership in the growing town.

Hospital Facilities

The hospital and specialist services for the town are administered by the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. In addition to the Cottage Hospital with 17 beds, and the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital with 30 beds, the town is served by the large hospitals in the surrounding towns, where full specialist and diagnostic facilities are readily available.

Cases of infectious disease in need of hospital treatment or isolation are transferred in the first place to St. Stephen's Ward of the St. Albans City Hospital. The Hertford Isolation Hospital and Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, are also available for these cases.

The site of the proposed new General Hospital to meet the needs of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield has been determined in the south-eastern area of the town, and detailed planning by the North-West Metropolitan Region Hospital Board is now nearing completion. It is hoped that a start will be made on the building during 1958.

General Medical Services

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is the body responsible for providing the general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. The Clerk of the Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has his offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

Family Planning

There is an active branch of the Family Planning Association in Welwyn Garden City, holding clinics at the Health Centre, Cole Green Lane. Sessions are held on Mondays, 6.30—8 p.m., and Thursdays, 1.30—3 p.m., for advice on birth control, and on Fridays, 9.30—11.30 p.m., for advice on childlessness. The sub-fertility clinic on Friday is by appointment only and patients must be referred through their own private doctor. The Family Planning Association is a voluntary body and small charges are made to the patients to cover expenses. Enquiries are welcomed and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. L. Bowmer, 14 Beehive Lane, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2270).

Marriage Guidance

The report of the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce provided a stimulus to the Marriage Guidance movement, particularly by its emphasis on the value of education and preparation for marriage and the success achieved by efforts at conciliation in cases of breakdown of the marriage. The Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council, Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Harrison, 28 Elmwood, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3507), is actively extending its work both in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield, and the number of trained counsellors has been increased during the year to meet the increased demand for advice.

Mortuary

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices.

Laboratory

The laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the examination of milk and other specimens required by medical practitioners and the Public Health Department. Larger scale facilities on an epidemiological basis, and for the examination of ice cream samples are available at the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, and the Health Department is also a centre to which practitioners may bring in specimens or materials requiring laboratory examination.

Section C—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	4	Jaundice	7
Whooping Cough ...	25	Food Poisoning	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	Erysipelas	3
Measles	609	Meningococcal Infection	1
Pneumonia	9		

Measles

Notifications were high during the first two quarters of the year, children in infant and pre-school age groups being affected in all parts of the town.

Other Infectious Diseases

As will be seen by reference to the above table, infectious diseases, apart from measles, were remarkably light throughout the year. There was almost complete freedom from scarlet fever and streptococcal infections, while no notifications of poliomyelitis were received during the year. The four cases of food poisoning were investigated by the Health Department, but were of little practical significance, which reflects credit upon the standards achieved by the staffs of canteens and food premises. No notifications of diphtheria were received. It is now over nine years since a proven case of diphtheria occurred, due to the satisfactory level of immunisation maintained in infants and young children.

Tuberculosis

A confidential register of notifications is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, the names being frequently checked with the records

held by the Chest Physician and County Medical Officer. Of the 33 cases added to the register during the year, 20 were transfers into the town mainly from the London area, a figure which compares favourably with the number of corresponding transfers into neighbouring urban districts.

	Male		Female		
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	Total
On register at 31st December, 1955	112	16	93	15	236
Removals from register during the year	11	1	12	1	25
Added to register during the year	14	3	12	4	33
Cases on the register at 31st December, 1956	115	18	93	18	244

The Chest Clinic at the St. Albans City Hospital undertakes the diagnosis and supervision of cases in the area, the Chest Physician attending on Monday mornings for the examination of patients from Welwyn Garden City. Following diagnosis a home visit is made by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor attached to the Chest Clinic and a report is sent to the Medical Officer of Health who is thus aware of the home circumstances of each case brought on to the register. In order to ensure full consideration of the special housing needs of tuberculous persons, each case is specially reviewed where necessary by the Housing Committee upon a detailed report from the Medical Officer of Health.

The accommodation for hospital and sanatorium treatment for active tuberculosis cases compares favourably with most areas so that the number of active cases remaining in their homes in a highly infective state in close contact with the other members of the family and young children, is kept to the minimum. In this there is close co-operation between the chest physicians, hospital almoners, Medical Officer of Health and the Housing Department.

Following consultation between the County Medical Officer and the Heads of all Secondary Schools in the town, B.C.G. vaccination was offered to all 13 year old boys and girls in maintained schools throughout the town. A very satisfactory acceptance rate was achieved bearing in mind that this was the first year that children in this group were being offered B.C.G., and that Welwyn Garden City was one of the first areas to be selected for this new preventive measure. The object of vaccination of children at this age is to increase their resistance to tuberculosis when they leave school, and come into contact with a wider population in industry, the university or commerce. Arrangements for the B.C.G. vaccination of infants and children in close contact with known cases of tuberculosis in the home has, of course, been an established measure for several years.

Housing

The steady progress maintained by the Council in the provision of new homes is shown by the following figures given by the Housing Manager:—

		As at 31st December, 1956
(*a*)	Number of houses owned by the Council	2,337
(*b*)	Number of temporary bungalows	150
(*c*)	Number of families housed during the year ...	181
(*d*)	Number of applicants on the housing lists:—	
	Priority grades	238
	Non-priority grades	1,575
(*e*)	Number of applications received during the year ...	281

The Council's letting policy was revised during the year to include applicants resident in Welwyn Garden City prior to January, 1955. (Previously January, 1953.)

With the abolition of housing subsidies and the high rates of interest on borrowed money the Housing Committee is concerned with the problem of high rents with regard to future development.

Good progress was made upon the Council's new Housing Scheme No. 17 in the Digswell Area, where lettings commenced in April. The Development Corporation also pushed ahead with their housing and development schemes on the east side of the town, a total of 439 houses and 22 flats being completed which housed 1,247 persons mainly from the London area. Major schemes of construction and expansion of industrial premises were maintained during the year.

Section D—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram, where the Pumping Station is situated. The Pumping Station is now electrified.

Six electrically driven pumps raise the water from six bore-holes to reservoirs on the Sherrardswood ridge, which provide a storage capacity of 3,000,000 gallons for the town's supply.

From the same station the Council pump water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council.

The public supply, subsequent to be raised from the bore-holes, is submitted to no treatment other than chlorination and storage in the reservoirs.

During 1956, with the exception of two samples of raw water obtained from the Council's Pumping Station which showed slight variation from the normal high bacteriological quality, the public water supply has been entirely satisfactory. The supply is chlorinated at the Pumping Station.

Water samples are obtained at regular intervals and a total of twenty-three samples were obtained during the year. Seventeen samples of the public supply were obtained after chlorination, of which

fifteen were submitted to bacteriological examination and two to chemical examination, and all were found to be of the highest quality. Six samples of unchlorinated water were obtained from the Pumping Station, of which two were submitted to chemical examination and four to bacteriological examination. From the aspect of chemical analysis the two samples chemically examined were of the highest quality. Two consecutive samples which were bacteriologically examined just fell short of the normal high standard of bacterial purity. Investigations made showed that a new pump had been installed at the Pumping Station and that a new bridge was being constructed nearby. Two repeat samples were obtained and reported to be of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

A new water source at Fulling Mill is being developed.

Details of Type of Supply

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public mains at March 31st, 1956, are as follows:—

	Dwelling-houses	Population
(*a*) Direct to houses	8,431	25,591 (estimated)
(*b*) By means of stand-pipes	2	8

At the close of the year an internal mains supply was provided to both these houses.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributory sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east, and discharges into sewage disposal works on the north-east corner of the district.

Sewage from the southern part of the district is pumped to the gravity sewers.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. The effluent discharges into the River Mimram, first passing through three lagoons. The sludge is pumped on to adjacent land and ploughed in.

Work on the Mimram Valley sewer, which is a branch of the Middle Lea Regional Scheme, has now been completed and part of the foul sewage of the town is taken to Ryemeads sewage works by gravity. The town's sewage disposal works will be in operation until Ryemeads sewage works can take the whole of the foul sewage of the town.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram, half mile (approximately), runs through the northern portion of the district, and a portion of the Lea,

half mile (approximately), runs through the south portion of the district.

3. Closet Accommodation

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system with the exception of those cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

(*a*) Number of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years	58
(*b*) Approximate number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1956	9

4. Public Cleansing

(*a*) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.* All premises have galvanised metal dustbins for the deposit of refuse. The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. Refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

Domestic refuse is tipped at a dump near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Such rats as may gain access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed by the Public Health Department.

(*b*) *Street Cleansing.* This is controlled by the Surveyor.

(*c*) *Gully Cleansing.* All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing Ltd., who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(*d*) *Dustbins.* The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find. Ninety new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:—

Urban District Council	42
Development Corporation	19
Other Owners	29

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(*a*) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:—	
Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power) ...	102
,, ,, Factories (without mechanical power) ...	5
,, ,, Workplaces	29
,, ,, Dairies	11
,, ,, Licensed Premises	12
Surveys and visits re Infested Premises (rats and mice)	4,017
Inspections of Shops	146
,, re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	287

,, of Dwellings (not otherwise included) ...	255
,, ,, Schools	17
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	58
Number of Premises treated for Bed Bugs	5
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under H.A. 1936 ...	120
Special Inspections or Visits made re:—	
Drainage	134
Infectious Diseases (including food poisoning) ...	196
Smoke observations	107
Water Supply	21
Milk Samples	45
Dustbins	154
Accumulation of refuse	74
Council Property	38
Miscellaneous Visits	154

(*b*) 1. Number of Informal Notices served 67

2. Number of Statutory Notices served 1

(*c*) 1. Number of Informal Notices:—
65 were complied with and 2 were outstanding.

2. The Statutory Notice was complied with.

6. (*a*) SHOPS

There are eighty-three shops in the district. One hundred and forty-six inspections of shops have been made.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act, 1950, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following action, under the Public Health Act, 1936, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken:—

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Want of Cleanliness	5	4
Sanitary Defects	1	—
Other Nuisances or Defects	13	13

Seven Informal Notices were served and complied with.

(*b*) OFFICES

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding ventilation, lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment. All buildings in the town with few exceptions are constructed without basements.

7. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations made	107
Smoke nuisances	11

During the year a lead dross smelting plant caused considerable nuisance but not a nuisance which could be dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Council's Smoke Byelaws. The emanations from the process are perhaps better described as fumes than as smoke and moreover were not black.

The process is, in fact, controlled by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspector under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1906.

The Inspector, in collaboration with the Council and the local Member of Parliament, has actively sought to have the nuisance abated. With this end in view, at the close of the year negotiations for the provision of a dry bag screening plant, were being continuously pursued.

It appears that the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. This may be attributed to the high consumption of electricity. Practically every house is wired for electricity, and domestic consumption in the town is believed to be proportionately higher than anywhere else in the country. Factories are wired for electricity, which in all instances provides the motive power. Steam boilers or furnaces are used for heating or trade processes only.

8. Swimming Pool

(1) The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

The continuous systems of chlorination and filtration, have continued to prove their worth. In spite of heavy bathing loads the pool water was found to be clear and bright and of satisfactory cleanliness.

Frequent tests are made with the Lovibond Comparator at the Pool to ascertain if the amount of free chlorine present is adequate; this test gives an immediate result showing the amount of chlorine present in parts per million.

(2) During the year three samples of water were obtained from the pool and were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Laboratory reports indicated that the three samples were of a high standard of bacterial purity.

9. Eradication of Bed Bugs

Five houses were found to be infested during the year. The infestations were cleared by spraying the houses affected with an insecticide containing D.D.T. It appears that, consequent on the introduction of insecticides containing D.D.T., the bed bug is becoming virtually extinct in England.

Section E—HOUSING

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year* :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 180

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 375

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932 7

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 18

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be fit for human habitation 57

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice*:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 55

3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

Section F—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) Milk

(*a*) *General*

There are six milk distributors registered, of whom only two occupy premises in the area. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

(*b*) It is estimated that over ninety per cent of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed. Tests of milk which had been pasteurised, obtained from local retailers and examined by the Phosphatase test resulted in the seventy-three samples obtained passing this test. This indicates that the seventy-three samples so examined were virtually free from pathogenic organisms.

(*c*) The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order, 1953, provides that all milk sold in the town must be Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Sterilised.

(2) Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations

During the year eleven inspections were made at dairies. Two infringements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were found. Informal notification was made to the distributors concerned and complied with by them.

(3) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains milk samples from Tuberculin Tested, and non-designated herds and has them examined for the

presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms has been received during the year.

(4) Milk Sampling

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at least once a month. The majority are taken on the public highway from retailers who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. Ninety-six samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital for bacteriological examination, and submitted to 160 tests. Ninety-six samples were obtained, but due to the refrigeration at the Laboratory breaking down, two samples had to be discarded. The remaining ninety-four samples passed all the one hundred and sixty tests to which they were subjected.

These excellent results show the great care taken by producers, pasteurisers, distributors and retailers in handling the milk which was sampled. Our records show that the standard achieved had not been previously attained in the past twenty years.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Of the twelve samples obtained, two were discarded due to the Laboratory refrigerator breaking down. The remaining ten samples all passed the Methylene Blue test.

Pasteurised Milk

Thirty-one samples were obtained. Twenty-eight of these were submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests and three to the Phosphatase test only. The samples passed all the eighty tests.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk

Thirty-one esamples were obtained. Twenty-eight of these were submitetd to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests and three to the Phosphatase test only. The samples passed all the fifty-nine tests.

Sterilised Milk

Eleven samples were obtained and all passed the Turbidity test.

(5) Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughter-houses in the district. The system of inspection operated in the district consists of the inspection of premises manufacturing or selling meat and other foods or products. Additional detail is given under the headings Milk Supply, Ice Cream and Clean Food.

A number of meat and other perishable food vendors' vehicles come into the district; these are inspected at intervals.

(6) Condemnation of Food

The food listed was inspected and surrendered during the year; the total being 1,829 pounds.

(*a*) *Uncooked Food*	lbs.
Meat	390
Fish	203

(*b*) *Food in Tins*

Vegetables	58
Meat	310
Fruit	454
Milk	108
Cheese	71
(*c*) *Miscellaneous Food*	235

(7) Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food are carried out at:—

(*a*) Hill End Laboratory, Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, Herts.

(*b*) Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

(*c*) Public Analyst, 20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.

(*d*) Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton.

A total of fifty-eight visits were made to the Laboratories during the year.

(8) Adulteration

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, regarding adulteration are administered by the County Council.

A total of forty-two samples of milk were obtained during the year by their Divisional Inspector and on analysis were found to be genuine.

(9) Clean Food

Premises Inspected. The following inspections and visits have been made:—

Canteens	29
Cafes and Restaurants	24
Food manufacturing premises	48
Food Shops	97
Mobile vehicles selling food (excluding ice cream vans)	11
Ice cream vans	4
Visits to examine food	69
Visits to procure samples of food (excluding milk)	28
Visits to advise on the distribution of ice cream	19

Informal Notices served, 21; complied with, 19.

(10) Ice Cream and Iced Lollies

Routine sampling of ice cream for bacteriological examination has been carried out throughout the year. During the course of sampling it was found that only five different makes of ice cream were sold and it therefore seems apparent that the smaller manufacturers whose products in the past have given cause for concern were no longer retailing in the district.

Fifty-nine samples were obtained from twenty-eight different retailers.

Type of Ice Cream	Provisional Grade 1	2	3	4	Total

	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		
Wrapped other than choc bars	25	—	—	—	25
Wrapped choc bars	9	—	—	—	9
Partly wrapped	11	—	—	—	11
Part of previously opened wrapped brick	5	—	—	—	5
Part of bulk supply	9	—	—	—	59
Total samples	59	—	—	—	59

Percentage results — 100%

Conclusions

The fact that all fifty-nine samples were placed in Grade I shows that an excellent standard both of manufacture and storage has been achieved.

(11) Iced Lollies

(*a*) *Fruit Lollies*

Eight samples of wrapped iced lollies were obtained from seven different retailers. The samples proved to be more acide than pH4 and bacteriological examinations were not carried out.

Conclusions

It is generally found that this type of lolly is of an acid nature, thereby preventing the growth of harmful organisms.

(*b*) *Cream Lollies*

Three samples were obtained.

Number free from Presumptive and Faecal Coli	Number with Presumptive Coli only	Number containing, in addition to Presumptive Coli, Faecal Coli
Nil	3	Nil

Conclusions

These results have a marked improvement over previous years and can be considered satisfactory.

Section G—GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspection of Factories

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power .	102	8	0
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	5	0	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act ...	10	2	0
Total ...	117	10	0

2. Defects Found

Particulars	Number of defects Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):				
Insufficient	3	3	0	0
Unsuitable or defective ...	15	14	1	0
Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0
Total ...	18	17	1	0

3. Factories Act, 1937

(*a*) The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to nine out-workers in the town. These persons assemble or make up articles in their own homes.

In addition eight local out-workers are employed by firms outside the district. The outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year.

(*b*) *Factories—General Information*

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past thirty years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are appproved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with sections 37, 43 or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted do not comply, amendments are informally negotiated with the proposers. If agreement is not secured within the statutory period or the statutory period is insufficient to allow negotiation, the plans are rejected. Where there is no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans is likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, this is pointed out to the proposers, and every endeavour made to secure prior compliance with these Acts.

4. Rodent Control

(*a*) *Administration*

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full-time Rodent Operative is employed.

(*b*) *Rodent Destruction*

Rats, mice or rats and mice were found on 172 premises and 3,907 visits were made to destroy them.

In addition, 110 premises were surveyed to ascertain if rats or mice were present. Where, as a consequence of a visit, treatments for the destruction of rats or mice were immediately commenced, such visits are not included under premises surveyed, but under visits made.

Details of the 172 infestations dealt with were as follows:

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Rats only	95	2,217
Mice only	66	1,249
Rats and Mice	11	441

Details of the various types of premises found infested were as follows:—

	Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business and Industrial Premises
Number of premises infested by Rats	3	71	21
Number of premises infested by Mice	1	44	21
Number of premises infested Rats and Mice	1	—	10
Total ...	5	115	52

Dwelling-houses are treated free, but a charge has to be made for rodent destruction at Business and Industrial Premises.

Annual contracts for the destruction of rats and mice are entered into by the Council in respect of Business and Industrial Premises. The charge made depends on the size of, and conditions at, the premises concerned. At December 31st, 1956, thirty-four firms had current contracts, covering forty-five premises, mainly factories.

(c) Sewers

In 1954 test baiting was carried out in the Council's sewers which convey foul water. Subsequent inspection showed that none of the baits has been taken. In view of this the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food agreed that further test baiting need not be repeated until 1957.

5. Insect Pests

During the year one hundred and twenty-four complaints were received. A total of two hundred and ninety-six visits were made.

The table gives an analysis of the work carried out at the one hundred and twenty-four premises where measures of destruction were completed during the year.

Pest	No. of premises affected	No. of Visits made
Ants	3	7
Crickets	12	25
Moths	1	1
Wasps	27	35

Mosquitoes	1	9
Bed Bugs	5	9
Woodworm	3	12
Earwigs	22	65
Red Mites	45	117
Miscellaneous Insects	5	16
Total ...	124	296

6. Sanitary Improvements Carried Out After Intimation to the Owner or Occupier

Nuisances and defects dealt with

Premises

Defective roofs	8
Galvanised dustbins provided or renewed	90
Damp houses	4
Defective guttering	7
Verminous premises	5
Dirty premises	5
Ceilings repaired	5
Ceilings renewed	5

Drains

Defective drains relaid	5
Choked drains	24
Defective drains repaired	3

Closet Accommodation, Etc.

New W.C.s fixed	2
Defective W.C. seats	8
Defective sink and bath waste pipes, traps, etc.	8
New accommodation provided	5
Accommodation cleansed	8
Miscellaneous repairs to closet accommodation	11

General

Premises infested by rats and/or mice	172
Insect infested premises (excluding bed bugs)	119
Brickwork repaired	14
Defective rainwater pipes	2
Defective floors	2
Accumulation of refuse	34
Paving repaired or provided	26
Plastering repaired	9
Miscellaneous nuisances and repairs	60
Defective gullies and manholes	3
Keeping of animals	1
Main water provided	3

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspector for 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:
S. W. WRIGHT, M.R.S.H.

District Public Health Inspectors:
D. N. FAULKNER, M.A.P.H.I. (Left 31.3.56).
J. KEMP, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
M. HALL, M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 1.8.56).

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:
L. A. LAWRENCE.

Clerks:
Mrs. S. K. GREEN.
A. A. W. CALLABY.

HATFIELD SECTION

Section A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE YEAR

Area in acres	21,945
Population (mid-year 1956, estimated by the Registrar-General)	30,920
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1957	9,526
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1957	£470,812
Product of a penny rate	£1,881

Social Conditions

The Hatfield Rural District is mainly an agricultural and residential area extending from the middle of Hertfordshire to the borders of Middlesex and the northern perimeter of the Outer Metropolitan area. The ancient town of Hatfield, the social and administrative centre of the area, already changed in character by the growth of the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company, is now undergoing further transformation by rapid residential and industrial development as a New Town.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes ...	...	159	140	299
Number of live births: Legitimate	...	290	250	540
Illegitimate	...	10	8	18
Number of still births: Legitimate	...	6	3	9
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Number of deaths of infants under one year:				
Legitimate	...	6	2	8
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Infant Mortality

Eight infants under one year of age died during the year. On careful consideration of the circumstances in each case, two of these deaths may be classed as unavoidable, being due to prematurity or congenital defects.

Male	...	25 minutes	...	Congenital heart disease
Male	...	45 minutes	...	Cerebral haemorrhage
Male	...	2 days	...	Asphyxia
Female	...	6 weeks	...	Pneumonia
Male	...	3 months	...	Pneumonia
Male	...	5 months	...	Hydrocephalus
Male	...	7 months	...	Asphyxia
Female	...	11 months	...	Suffocation

Maternal Mortality

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary midwifery in the area.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1952	13.1	0.95	12.4	8.4	1.07	9.0	12.3
1953	15.1	0.94	14.2	9.6	1.15	11.0	12.7
1954	16.3	0.94	15.3	8.2	1.15	9.4	13.3
1955	16.1	0.94	15.1	8.9	1.15	10.2	14.8
1956	17.46	0.90	15.7	9.6	1.09	10.4	14.8
England and Wales 1956	15.7		15.7	11.7		11.7	24

Deaths

No major factor affected the mortality rate for the year. The slight rise in the general death rate compared with 1954 is due to more deaths from cancer and heart diseases.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	1	—	1
Cancer	33	29	62
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis ...	21	41	62
Heart Diseases	53	45	98
Other circulatory diseases	14	6	20
Pneumonia	8	2	10
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ...	7	2	9
Diabetes	1	1	2
Nephritis	—	2	2
Congenital malformation	2	—	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	8	4	12
Suicide	—	2	2
Other defined causes	11	6	17
	159	140	299

Analysis of the deaths from cancer according to site of origin:

Respiratory tract	22
Alimentary tract and liver	19
Breast and uterus	9
Unclassified	12

Section B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services for the District are administered by the County Council, the local health authority for these services under the National Health Service. The Medical Officer of Health of the District is also the Divisional Medical Officer for the County Health Services which greatly facilitates full co-ordination of the various functions.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

At the end of the year the Specialist Clinics were transferred to more central and modern premises at Kennelwood, French Horn Lane, the child welfare clinic being held at the Civil Defence Hut, St. Albans Road.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Civil Defence Hut, St. Albans Road	2—4 p.m. Friday (alternating). (Immunisation Session) 9.30—11.30 a.m. Friday (3rd each month).
Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield	2—4 p.m. Friday (alternating).
Roe Hill House, Hatfield ...	9.30—11.30 a.m. 2—4 p.m. Thursdays. (Immunisation Session) 9.30—11.30 a.m. Friday (4th each month).
15 Hazelgrove	2—4 p.m. Wednesday.
Brookmans Park Hotel Annexe	2—4 p.m. Monday (1st and 3rd).
The Cabin, Cuffley	2.30—4.30 p.m. Monday (1st and 3rd).
Village Hall, Essendon ...	2—4 p.m. Thursday (2nd and 4th).
Iron Hall, Little Heath ...	2—4 p.m. Monday (2nd and 4th).
Scout House, North Mymms	2—4 p.m. Thursday (1st and 3rd).
Kennelwood, Hatfield	
*Ophthalmic	9.30—12 noon Monday.
*Orthoptic	9.30—12 noon Tuesday. 2—4.30 p.m. Tuesday.
*Speech Therapy	2—4.30 p.m. Tuesday. 2—4.30 p.m. Wednesday.
*Minor Ailments	9.30—10.15 a.m.—Tuesday (2nd).
*Remedial Exercises	10—11 a.m. Thursday.

* By appointment only.

Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for 1956 for detailed information on the development of these services.

Welfare Foods

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are sold at the Child Welfare

Centres, and at the following times at 14 St. Albans Road, Hatfield:—Tuesday and Friday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. and 2 p.m.—5 p.m.

Nursing Services

Difficulty has been experienced in attracting suitable nurses for home nursing and domiciliary midwifery in the town, but the nursing team has now been augmented by the appointment of several young and enthusiastic nurses who are providing a greatly improved service. At present there are four Health Visitors; three District Nurse/Midwives, and one District Nurse serving the growing needs of the town of Hatfield, while the nursing services in all other centres throughout the district are well maintained. Voluntary helpers continue to be of great assistance to the health visitors in charge of the welfare centres by attending to non-clinical duties such as the attendance records and the issuing of special infant foods and vitamin preparations.

School Health Service

The routine periodic inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups, i.e. 5 years, 11 years and final year at secondary school, was carried out in all maintained schools, with an additional group at eight years. Attendances at the special sessions held at Kennelwood Clinic, viz. ophthalmic, orthoptic and speech training showed a slight increase over the previous year. Unfortunately no dental facilities have been provided through the school dental service owing to the very difficult staffing situation.

Immunisation and Vaccination

The number of infants and young children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough during the year was very satisfactory, the injections being given either by the family doctor or at the child welfare clinics. A reinforcing injection against diphtheria is necessary when the child reaches the age of five years and is usually given shortly after entry to infants' school. Credit is due to the parents, teachers, doctors, nurses and voluntary workers supervising the health of children in ensuring protection from diphtheria and whooping cough at a cost which is but a small part of the cost of the hospital facilities previously necessary for the isolation and treatment of these diseases.

It is encouraging to observe that over 70% of infants are protected against diphtheria during their first years of life. The number of children vaccinated against smallpox at the Child Welfare Clinics and by family practitioners continues to rise steadily.

Following the introduction of the Government scheme for anti-poliomyelitis vaccination, batches of children within the prescribed age groups were vaccinated in Hatfield and other districts during May and June, the number of children being limited by the small quantities of vaccine available. It is anticipated that a more ample supply of the vaccine will be available during 1957, when the remainder of the children already registered will receive their injections and additional groups accepted. No untoward reaction from this protective vaccination was reported among those vaccinated.

Home Help Service

The demand upon the Home Help Service has been steady throughout the district during the year, the needs of elderly persons and long-term illness receiving special attention. The local organiser, Mrs. J. Clements, has her office at Kennelwood (Telephone: Hatfield 2509).

Ambulance Service

One ambulance and a sitting case car are maintained at the Fire Station in Batterdale, Hatfield, which is manned during the day-time only by a crew of five fully trained ambulance men. Night cover for the district is provided by the larger station in Welwyn Garden City, and other adjoining stations.

Hospital Car Service

This is a voluntary service used to transport patients to and from hospitals and clinics, and is a most valuable supplement to the work of the County Ambulance Service. All requests should be directed to the Ambulance Station (Telephone: Hatfield 2222).

Hertfordshire Executive Council

The Clerk of the Executive Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195), and is responsible for the provision of a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area.

Health Education

A special publicity campaign was held in June and July drawing the attention of the public to the dangers of food poisoning and the need for clean practices in the storage and preparation of food. The Council also joined in an intensive diphtheria immunisation publicity scheme earlier in the year on a pattern suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Section C—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:—

Whooping Cough	21
Measles	17
Scarlet Fever	4
Poliomyelitis	1
Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	1

Infectious Diseases

As will be seen from these figures, infectious diseases were remarkably light throughout the district, the very low incidence of scarlet fever and streptococcal illnesses being noteworthy.

Diphtheria

Once more it is very gratifying to be able to report a year of complete absence from diphtheria throughout the District, thanks to the co-operation of parents and all concerned with the promotion of the immunisation campaign.

Tuberculosis

The register of notifications has been maintained and is constantly reviewed by reference to the records held by the chest physicians and County Medical Officer of Health.

The tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:

	Male		Female		
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	Total
On register at 31st December, 1955	119	9	96	23	247
Removals from the register during the year	11	1	7	—	19
Added to the register during year	29	2	19	2	52
On register at 31st December, 1956	137	10	108	25	280

The majority of tuberculous persons coming into the district are from the London area, where they have been under treatment and close observation for some time, and are thus non-effective quiescent cases. It is customary for the chest physicians to maintain supervision for five years after all signs of activity in the disease have subsided.

The Chest Clinic at St. Albans City Hospital in its new enlarged premises has its own diagnostic X-ray plant to facilitate the ready supervision of patients and contacts referred to the clinic by medical practitioners. In each following diagnosis home visiting is promptly arranged through the Health Visitors attached to the Clinic and a full report of the home circumstances is received by the Medical Officer of Health, who is able to assess the special needs of each case brought on the register. The necessity for special consideration of the housing needs of tuberculous persons is fully recognised by the Housing Committee of the District Councils, and high priority is given to all such cases represented to the Committee by the Medical Officer of Health. There is close integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

Section D—HOUSING

The following data provided by the Housing Manager shows the substantial progress made by the Council in providing new houses during the year:—

(*a*)	Number of houses owned by the Council	2,163
(*b*)	Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation	—
(*c*)	Number of families housed in temporary huts ...	—
(*d*)	Number of families housed during the year	272

(*e*) Number of applicants on the housing list:

Families in shared accommodation and caravans ...	222
Families in separate accommodation and applications for transfer from Council tenants	363
	585

Although less houses were completed by the Council in 1956 than the previous year, it will be noted that the number of families housed was greater. This is due to an increased movement of tenants from the Council's housing estates, and will probably continue as the housing situation generally improves.

It will be noted that there has been a slight reduction in the total number of families applying for Council accommodation, and there has also been a decline in the proportion of urgent cases needing special consideration by the Council.

Rapid progress was achieved by the Development Corporation in extending the housing schemes in the southern part of Hatfield during the year, a total of 641 houses being completed which housed 2,113 persons mainly from the London area. Road and drainage works in the Oxlease part of the New Town were completed during the year.

Good progress was made with the Council's scheme for the redevelopment of the Rights of Way Area in Hatfield and several individual unfit houses throughout the district were demolished during the year.

Side by side with the preparation of slum clearance proposals the Council continues to give close attention to the matter of unsatisfactory caravan sites.

Section E—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Public Supplies

The main water supply is provided almost entirely by the Barnet District Water Company. There are a few properties on the boundaries of the district which are supplied from the water undertakings of Welwyn Garden City U.D.C., Hertford R.D.C., St. Albans Waterworks Company and the Metropolitan Water Board.

Throughout the year these supplies have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Private Supplies

The following areas of the district still have independent supplies:

Area	Number of supplies	Number of dwellings supplied
Astwick	1	2
Coopers Green	3	6/1/1
Cromer Hyde	2	3/1
Essendon	1	2

Marshmoor	2	3/1
Mill Green	2	2
Newgate Street	2	12/10
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1
Roe Hyde	2	6/1
Stanborough	4	32/1/1/1
Symonds Hyde	1	6
Westfield	1	1
Woodside	2	2/1

A total of 27 supplies serving 115 dwellings.

A mains supply is reasonably accessible in all but the Coopers Green and Symonds Hyde areas.

These sources of supply were regularly tested and samples taken for bacteriological examination. Unsatisfactory results were followed up with detailed investigations and improvements in quality were effected by the cleansing and repair of several wells.

During the year two wells at Lemsford and Wildhill which had produced consistently bad results were replaced by main supplies, affecting five dwellings.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The sewerage schemes for Lemsford and Cromer Hyde mentioned in the previous report did not receive Ministry consent and were not proceeded with; approval was, however, obtained for the first part of the Cuffley Scheme and it is hoped that work will be started next year.

The Council operate sewage disposal plants at Mill Green Hatfield, Essendon, Cuffley, Newgate Street and Northaw, and Sewage pumping stations at Mill Green, Stanborough, Stonehouse and Nast Hyde. The Welham Green disposal works which dealt with the drainage from Welham Green and Brookmans Park, and the Warrengate Road Pumping Station were connected to the Colne Valley Trunk Sewer, and taken out of operation pending a decision on their possible future use for the treatment of storm water.

The Mill Green disposal works, although relieved of the flow from the Nast Hyde Pumping Station, which was diverted to the Colne Valley sewer late in the previous year, were still operating at well over their design capacity.

At Brocket Road, Stanborough, a rider sewer was laid which enabled 28 properties formerly on cesspools, to drain to the main sewer.

Extensions to the soil and surface water sewerage systems continued in the southern part of the Designated Area, and work in progress included the main soil sewer (Phase III) and surface water sewer (Batterdale) for the Oxlease Area. The Ellenbrook from Nast Hyde to the gravel pits was widened and graded to cope with the run off from the Western area of the New Town.

Cesspool Emptying

One cesspool emptier was fully employed during the year on

night soil collection and cesspool emptying, and some contract assistance was necessary to deal with the demand at peak periods. Cesspools were emptied on request and, in general, three free emptyings were given each year, a charge being made for any additional emptyings which were necessary.

Gully Cleansing

Gullies in private roads were emptied quarterly, the work being carried out by contract.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection was carried on by direct labour throughout the district. A weekly collection was made in all areas, together with more frequent special collection from hotels and canteens, and a trade refuse collection for which charges were made. A collection vehicle of the compression type was brought into service, additional to the other refuse vehicles in use comprising one compression type, three moving floor and one side loader.

Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the gravel workings at Smallford and Holwell.

Inspections of the Area

The following summary details the various visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

Complaints received and investigated	264
Inspections for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	202
In connection with Improvement Grants	88
Water Supply	123
Overcrowding	27
Moveable Dwellings	364
Infectious Disease	56
Insect Infestations	60
Drainage Inspections	172
Drains Tested	25
Factories	133
Smoke Observations	17
Stables	5
Piggeries	19
Rats and Mice	42
Refuse Disposal and Collection	34
Offensive Accumulations	72
Revisits to Premises under Notice	169
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	308
Miscellaneous Visits	238

Inspections of Food Premises

Butchers Shops and Preserved Food Premises	83
Bakehouses	6
Bakers Shops	24
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	75
Dairies and Milk Shops	19

Ice Cream Premises	45
Licensed Premises	26
Grocers and Other Food Shops	76
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	25
Fishmongers and Poulterers	27
Fried Fish Shops	4
Watercress Beds	6

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

At Slaughterhouses	288
At Food Premises	66
Miscellaneous Visits	113
Total Visits ...	3,301

Notices Served

	Informal	Formal	Prosecutions
Public Health and Housing Acts ...	48	2	Nil
Food and Drugs Act	16	—	—
Factories Act	2	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	5	—	—

Housing

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere

(*a*) *Houses Demolished*	
1. In Clearance Areas	Nil
2. As result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act 1936	2
(*b*) *Unfit Houses Closed*	Nil
(*c*) *Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which defects were remedied*	
After informal action by Local Authority	39
(*d*) *Unfit Houses in Temporary Use*	Nil
(*e*) *Houses in Clearance Areas purchased by Agreement*	7

Housing Act 1949—Improvement Grants

The modernisation of older houses by the provision of such facilities as bathrooms, modern sanitation and hot water has been encouraged wherever possible. During the year applications have been approved in respect of sixty-three properties.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk and Dairies

There are three dealers' premises within the district, and five distributors who operate from premises elsewhere.

The Dealers' Licences issued by the Council during the year are as follows:—

Licence for Pasteurised Milk	2
Licence for Sterilised Milk	2
Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	6

Supplementary Licence for Sterilised Milk	6
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	6

Slaughterhouses

Both private slaughterhouses continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. Killing was normally carried out on two days a week at each slaughterhouse.

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme—Deadweight Certification of Pigs

The certification of pigs is undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at Bell Bar.

During the year 809 pigs were certified as qualifying for the deadweight subsidy payment. The Council has received the sum of £23 18s. 0d. for the services of the Inspectors in carrying out this work.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	308	54	1,425	2,264
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci				
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	3	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	71	—	122	217
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticeri ...	23.05	5.56	8.63	9.67
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	—	—	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.25	—	—	0.49
Amounts Condemned as unfit for human consumption ...	1,455 lbs.	81 lbs.	325 lbs.	834 lbs.

Meat and Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for food in shops and other premises where food is prepared or sold:—

English Beef	86 lbs.
Imported Beef	188 lbs.
English Pork	20 lbs.
Imported Pigs Kidneys ...	10 lbs.
Imported Lambs Livers ...	80 lbs.
59 tins Meat	191 lbs. 10½ ozs.
2 tins Fish	6½ ozs.
42 tins Vegetables	77 lbs. 11 ozs.
127 tins Fruit	253 lbs. 5¼ ozs.

4 tins Milk	3 lbs. 8 ozs.
1 tin Soup	15½ ozs.
1 tin Coffee	4 ozs.
Cheese	12 lbs.
1 jar Salad Cream	1 gallon

Food Shops and Food Handling

The long awaited Food and Drugs Act, 1955, together with the new Food Hygiene Regulations, came into force on the 1st January, 1956.

The regulations lay down improved standards for the control of cleanliness in food premises with particular reference to such items as personal cleanliness, carrying and wrapping of food, first aid equipment, facilities for washing food and equipment, lighting and ventilation, temperatures at which certain foods are to be kept, requirements for stalls and transport of meat.

A comprehensive survey of all canteens, cafes, food shops, food preparing premises and places where food is handled was commenced.

Number of Food Premises in the District:—

Butchers	17
Bakehouses	2
Bakers Shops	6
Cafes and Canteens	45
Grocers	42
General, Ice Cream, etc.	26
Greengrocers	18
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	6

Factories

The present number of factories is as follows:—

Factories with Mechanical Power (where Section 7 of Factories Act, 1937, is enforced by Local Authority).	116
Factories without Mechanical Power (where Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of Factories Act, 1937, are enforced by Local Authority).	2

Rodent Control

The demands on this service were considerably fewer during 1956; this enabled the Operative to carry out systematic surveys of the whole of the district.

During the year the sewers were treated and a few minor infestations were detected.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Rodent Operative during the year:—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri. cultural	Business	Total
Properties found to be infested by rats and treated	12	229	5	54	300
Number of treatments (incl. retreatments)	23	265	10	69	367
Properties found to be infested by mice and treated	2	24	—	6	32
Number of treatments (incl. retreatments)	3	25	—	6	34
Number of visits recorded by Rodent Operative	198	1,418	37	360	2,013

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Details of work carried out by the department during the year:—

Articles of bedding, etc., disinfected	3
Premises treated—	
Fleas	2
Bugs	3
Flies	1
Beetles	2
Cockroaches	1
Earwigs	1
Ants	11
Clover Mites	2
Wasp Nests destroyed	25

Thirty-seven Council Houses were inspected on change of tenancy and twenty treatments for woodworm were carried out.

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspector for 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H,

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Public Health Inspector:
W. J. AVERY, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.San.I.

Clerk:
A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELWYN SECTION

Section A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE YEAR

Area in acres	5,232
Population (mid year 1955 as estimated by the Registrar-General)	5,720
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1957	1,880
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1957	£72,329
Net product of a penny rate	£268

Social Conditions

The district is mainly agricultural in character, the old town of Welwyn, where the Great North Road crosses the Mimram, being the natural centre of the area. The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote, although only 24 miles north of London, while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas. The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded and agricultural country in Hertfordshire, and having escaped the urbanising influences of the inter-war years, retains its rural charm.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	23	27	50
Number of live births: Legitimate	42	47	89
Illegitimate... ...	2	1	3
Number of still births: Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate... ...	—	—	—
Number of deaths of infants under one year:			
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate... ...	—	—	—

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1952	15.8	0.94	14.8	7.2	0.97	6.9	35.2
1953	14.9	0.88	13.1	11.0	0.97	10.6	24.6
1954	18.4	0.88	16.1	10.7	0.97	10.3	19.8
1955	13.4	0.88	11.8	8.9	0.97	8.6	Nil
1956	16.0	0.88	14.0	8.7	1.05	9.1	10.8
England and Wales 1956	15.7		15.7	11.7		11.7	24

Deaths

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred—in the district during the year:—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Cancer	4	9	13
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis ...	2	3	5
Heart Diseases	8	6	14
Other circulatory diseases	2	2	4
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases ...	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	—	1
Nephritis	—	1	1
Congenital malformation	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	3	5
Other defined causes	2	3	5
	23	27	50

Section B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services throughout the district are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council. The Medical Officer of Health of the District, who is also the Divisional Medical Officer, supervises these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Welwyn (The Hill)

Infant Welfare	2—4 p.m. Friday.
Ante and Post Natal ...	9 a.m.—12 noon Thursday (1st only).
Dental	9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. and 2—5 p.m. Tuesday (1st and 3rd).

(Minor ailments are treated daily at 1 The Crescent (Nurse's Residence) between 8 and 9 a.m.)

Nursing Services

Miss I. A. Green, 1 The Crescent, Welwyn, the home nurse/midwife, carried out the domiciliary nursing and midwifery for most of the Rural District, with nurses from Welwyn Garden City and Wheathampstead assisting in the outlying parishes.

The Health Visitor for the area, Mrs. J. M. Scott, attends the Infant Welfare Centre on Friday afternoons.

School Health Service ...

Children in the three prescribed age groups, were examined during the year. The school nurse regularly visits the school to undertake the treatment of minor ailments, while the special diagnostic and

treatment sessions at Welwyn Garden City are available as required. Regular dental sessions have been held on Tuesdays at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation

A high level of primary immunisation against diphtheria is maintained by the continued interest of all concerned in the maintenance of the immunisation scheme. In addition to the children immunised by the family doctors, sessions are arranged at the schools, and at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, for larger groups as necessary.

Whooping cough immunisation introduced during 1953 has been well received by parents, the injections being ideally commenced at the age of 4 months after the infant has been vaccinated. The Ministry of Health have now recommended that these injections are best given separately instead of combined with diphtheria immunisation.

Old People's Welfare

The Welwyn Jubilee Old Folks' Club, under the chairmanship of Mr. L. W. Adams, has continued to expand both in membership and activities throughout the year, there now being 116 members and an average atendance of between 50 and 60 each week.

By encouraging old people to attend the club and join in its activities, it brings new interest into the lives of many of these elderly people who tend to become lonely and neglected in their homes with few interests outside their narrow daily routine. In addition, the home visiting of old people confined to their homes does prove a source of great comfort to the disabled, especially during the winter months. The success of the club reflects great credit upon the group of voluntary workers who give much time to this work, especially in arranging the many excursions, parties, whist drives and special meetings.

The special chiropody service which ensures that expert advice and treatment are available when required for elderly people with foot troubles, is proving very valuable.

Great credit is due to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. G. D. Matthews, who has continued her valuable work throughout the year.

The Woolmer Green Old Persons' Club, Hon. Secretary Mr. A. W. Claydon, has also continued to flourish in its new quarters throughout the year.

Home Help Service

The local organiser for the Welwyn Rural District is Mrs. E. R. Dawson, The Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2190). The service has been well maintained throughout the year, although at times difficulties have been experienced in finding suitable home helps within the Rural District. While it has usually been possible to cover demands on the service, there is a need for women in each parish who would be willing to be registered for casual home help work in this essential service.

Hospitals

The district is served by its own hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, which has forty beds for general medical and surgical cases. Within easy reach are the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Hertford and St. Albans, where full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available. The majority of maternity patients needing hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, but maternity beds are available also at Hitchin and St. Albans.

Executive Council

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A. E. Short is the Clerk of the Council, and has offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

Ambulance Service

The Hertfordshire County Council has control of the Ambulance Brigade, the staff and ambulances attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station covering all calls in the Welwyn Rural District, assisted by the Hospital Car Service.

Welfare Foods

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are sold at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill, at the following times: Wednesday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.; 2—4.30 p.m.

SECTION C—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification of infectious diseases throughout the year are remarkably light, the following cases being reported.

Measles	7
Whooping Cough	4
Scarlet Fever	4
Food Poisoning	27

Tuberculosis

Following a careful check of all cases on the tuberculosis registers with the records held by the Chest Physician and County Medical Officer, the statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Male		Female		
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	Total
On the register at 31st December, 1955	20	1	22	3	46
Removals from the register					

during the year	4	—	2	1	7
Added to the register during the year	1	—	—	1	2
On the register at 31st December, 1956	17	1	20	3	41

The Tuberculosis Clinics at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of cases in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting of all cases is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case are fully investigated.

The reduction in the number of persons on the tuberculosis list is due mainly to transfers out of the district.

Section D—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The supply of water for the Welwyn Rural District Council is obtained from the following two sources:—

(*i*) Welwyn Garden City Pumping Station situated in the Mimram Valley, and

(*ii*) A well situated in School Lane, Welwyn, owned by the Welwyn R.D.C.

The average weekly consumption from both sources, during the calendar year, 1956, was as follows:—

(*i*) From Welwyn Garden City 1,410,560 gallons

(*ii*) From School Lane Welwyn 641,519 gallons

At the end of 1955, it was felt that the Welwyn R.D.C. well at School Lane, Welwyn, was not being used to full advantage as purchased supplies from the Welwyn Garden City Station were showing a marked increase. Steps were taken, therefore, to reduce the quantities taken from Welwyn Garden City, and in order to achieve this, domestic premises at The Crescent, London Road, and Broomfield Estate, were disconnected from the Welwyn Reservoir (served by the Welwyn Garden City pumping main), and connected with the Council's pumping main from the School Lane well.

The extent to which this improvement was achieved is shown by the following comparative figures for the years 1955 and 1956:—

	1955	1956
From Welwyn Garden City	1,589,000	1,410,560
From Welwyn Waterworks	579,653	641,519

The reduction in the overall consumption is due to the fact that the Council ceased to supply Hertford R.D.C. in September, 1955.

All water supplied through the Council's mains is chlorinated and all bacteriological and chemical analyses made during the year have yielded satisfactory results.

A grand total of 106,708,000 gallons was consumed during the year.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Just over 50% of the population is served by the Council's sewage disposal works and the remainder by cesspools and septic tanks. The discharge of treated sewage effluent into the River Mimram from the Welwyn disposal works is watched carefully, regular samples are taken, and during the year no sub-standard results were obtained.

The disposal works at Woolmer Green Lane operated satisfactorily. The scheme to extend the trunk sewers more widely throughout the Rural District, and to discharge all piped sewage into the Middle Lea Trunk Sewer, is still under consideration.

The Council's cesspool emptying service is operating satisfactorily and 819 services were made during the year.

A new vehicle of improved design has been ordered as a replacement to the present tanker.

3. Rainfall

Readings of rainfall were taken during the year and a total of 27.14″ fell. There was a measurable fall on 136 separate days, the heaviest fall being 1.04″ on the 15th December, 1956. The wettest month was August with a fall of 5.35″ of rain and the driest month was May with a fall of 0.59″.

4. House Refuse Collection

A weekly collection of all house refuse was maintained successfully during the year, using one Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Refuse Collector and a team of one driver and three loaders. Disposal is by tipping at one central tip in Welwyn.

5. Housing

Sixty-one dwelling houses were completed during the year. Thirty-one by private enterprise and 30 under contract let by the Council. The 30 Council houses form part of the attractive Queensway Estate which, when complete, will provide housing for many families in pleasant surroundings with excellent amenities.

A further contract was let by the Council during the year for the erection of 20 bungalows suitable for occupation by elderly people and this contract was well under way at the end of the year.

The Council has now completed 322 houses since the war and has erected 640 houses in all, including 46 prefabricated houses.

6. Inspections of District

The District was inspected regularly by your officers and visits were made in response to specific complaints from members of the public.

Only one slaughterhouse is being operated in the district and the premises were visited weekly, when meat was inspected and a note taken of the hygienic conditions prevailing.

A number of dwelling houses were visited for inspection of minor defects and repairs effected by informal action.

The Council effected the demolition of eight houses during the year in the Mimram area.

Seventeen cesspools were inspected following complaints of noxious effluvia and the owners requested to improve the conditions.

Nineteen moveable dwellings were inspected during the year in order to ensure that there was no deterioration of the standards of housing provided in this way.

7. Condemnation of Food

Traders are very co-operative in this matter and the attention of my department has been drawn to food which was in such a state as to justify seizure. The quantities of food seized in this way are as follows:—

Uncooked Food		
Beef	75 lbs.	Decomposition.
Tinned Food		
Vegetables ...	14 lbs.	Blown tins.
Meat	51 lbs.	do.
Fruit	23 lbs.	do.

8. Rodent Control and Pests Destruction

The joint scheme with Hitchin Rural and Royston Urban District Councils continued to operate satisfactorily. The sewer tests carried out during the year indicated that the district sewers were free from rats. Details of hours worked are as follows:—

Sewers	18
Tips	140
Private dwellings	49
Business premises	2
Agricultural land	17
Total ...	226

9. Shops Act, 1950, Section 38, and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Action was commenced during 1955 to facilitate satisfactory toilet and washing accommodation in seven shops in the area. These requirements were adhered to and accommodation satisfactorily provided during the period. All shops were circulated with the explanatory notices regarding the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

W. A. Guest (Printers) Ltd., Hatfield Press.